

1 CORINTHIANS 4 vs 1

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Jesus said, I will build My Church. And knowing that, Paul gives us many interesting details as to what that lively edifice looks like: Paul speaks to those in Corinth not in hocus pocus spiritual sounding speech, but in meaty familiar context of straight talk. 1 Corinthians 3 when he said:

brothers, I could not speak to you as spiritual, but as carnal **sarkikos** from **sarx**, meaning: **flesh**, the thin veneer on the surface. In Acts we read: the Lord will pour out His Spirit upon all sarx which sounds like a good thing, doesn't it? Paul, a good teacher, who was taught by the Best is not using a condemnatory tone in this 1st letter, much like we hear from self-righteous peddlers. To Romans, Paul wrote: to be carnally minded is death... We should understand that verse: to be only carnally minded is deadly, since God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.



¹ Let a person consider us, as servants of Christ, and guardians of the mysteries of God.

² In this regard, it is required of managers, that each one be found faithful.

³ It is of little importance to me that I should be judged by you, or by any human court: yes, I do not judge my own self / Paul did not consider himself competent to judge himself, so he did not spend his ministry trying to judge those who were purchased by the blood of Jesus.

⁴ For I am not conscious of anything against myself; yet I am not judicially declared right by this: He who judges me is the Lord / most people are not conscious of their errors We can deceive ourselves and others into thinking, I'm doing pretty good – all my life.

⁵ So judge nothing prematurely, before the Lord comes, who will both bring to light what is hidden in darkness, and will reveal the intentions of the heart: and then praise will come to each one from God.

⁶ Now, brothers and sisters, I have figuratively applied these thing to myself and Apollos for your benefit; that you learn the meaning of the saying: Nothing beyond what is written, that no one be inflated with pride against one another.

⁷ For who makes you so superior to another?

and what do you have that you did not receive? now if in fact you received it, why do you boast, as if you had not received it? / if it didn't originate with you, but was given to you; what's the big deal about that?

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⁸ Now you are already full, you are already rich, you have begun to reign as kings without us: **and I hope to God you do reign, that we also might reign with you.**

⁹ For I think that God has displayed us, the ones He sent in last place, like those condemned to die. We have become a living marvel / an example to the world, and angels, and the people.

¹⁰ We are fools for Christ, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong; you are honorable, but we are despised.

¹¹ Up to this present hour, we are both hungry and thirsty, and are poorly clothed; we are roughly treated, with no place of our own / **Paul and company, changing the world were homeless;**

¹² **and we labor, working with our own hands:** / they did not wait around for handouts... when we are reviled, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it:

¹³ when we are slandered, we respond with grace: **we are even like the garbage of the world, and like the manure scraped from your shoes each day.**

¹⁴ I am not writing these things to shame you, but to warn you as my dear children.

¹⁵ For though you have 10,000 teachers in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I gave you birth through the gospel. / and here, if Paul actually wrote this, it needs correction; we have One Father in heaven, and only brothers and sisters in the Family of God. **This is contrary to Matthew's writing: call no man father, for we have one Father, and He is in heaven.**

¹⁶ Wherefore I urge you, imitate me / yes! To Paul, as a great older brother worthy of recognition.

¹⁷ This is why I sent Timothy to you, who is a beloved and faithful brother in the Lord. He will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every assembly.

¹⁸ Now some are arrogant, as if I would not come to you.

¹⁹ But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I will find out not the talk, but the power of those who are arrogant.

²⁰ **For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk, but of power.**

²¹ What do you want? Should I come with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of gentleness?

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